



# U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

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From the Desk of  
Gail Adams  
Director, OIEA

Happy Great Outdoors  
Month!

The President has proclaimed June as Great Outdoors month! DOI is celebrating in grand fashion and encouraging everyone to enjoy America's Great Outdoors. We have hundreds of national parks, wildlife refuges, public and tribal lands, waters and shores for you to explore. No matter where you live, there is something for you to enjoy nearby. And while you are enjoying our federal public lands, don't forget about your local and state parks. Adventure awaits, so go out and have fun.

Secretary Salazar has also been busy making it easier for military families to enjoy our national assets with the Military Pass. He's established more waterways and designated new monuments and trails for us to enjoy. There is much more to come!

Sincerely,

*Gail Adams*

## Secretary Salazar, U.S. Officials Announce Military Pass for Free Access to National Parks and Other Public Lands

**Yorktown, Va.**— Secretary Salazar joined is no entrance fee for children 15 and under. Director of the National Park Service, Jonathan Jarvis, and Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Jo-Ellen Darcy, at Colonial National Historical Park to announce the Military Pass for Free Access to National Parks and Other Public Lands. The annual pass allows active duty service members and their dependents free access to more than 2,000 national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, and other public lands around the nation in the coming years.

Where there are entrance fees, the pass covers the owner and accompanying passengers in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle at recreation sites that charge per vehicle. At sites where per-person entrance fees are charged, it covers the pass owner and three accompanying adults age 16 and older. There

The passes support the First Lady's and Dr. Biden's Joining Forces Initiative to support our nation's service members and their families.

More information on the passes can be found [here](#).



## Secretary Salazar Signs Secretarial Order Establishing the National Blueways Initiative

**Hartford, Ct.**— Secretary Salazar signed a Secretarial Order establishing a National Blueways System and announced that the 410-mile-long Connecticut River and its 7.2 million-acre watershed will be the first National Blueway— covering areas of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Joined at Riverside Park in Hartford by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal; U.S. Rep. John Larson; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army Terrence "Rock" Salt; Friends of the Silvio O. Conte Refuge Chairman Patrick Comins and other members of the conservation and business communities, Secretary Salazar said that partnerships along the Connecticut River provide an example for the rest of the nation.

Establishing the Connecticut River Watershed as a National Blueway will help promote access to the rivers and trails in the watershed for outdoor recreation, conservation of wildlife habitat and working lands, and support travel,

tourism and outdoor recreation economies throughout the watershed.

Over 40 nonprofit and government organizations, including local, state, and federal partners, have been working to support the Blueway designation process as part of a collaboration to enhance efforts already in progress throughout the watershed.

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## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

**Secretary Salazar, White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley Speak at Fort Ord Dedication Ceremony, May 19**—Secretary Salazar joined White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley in Monterey, California at the dedication ceremony for the Nation's newest National Monument, Fort Ord. Created by a Presidential Proclamation on April 20, 2012, the Monument is managed by BLM's Hollister Field Office. Established in 1917 as a U.S. Army post, the Fort Ord National Monument holds some of the last undeveloped natural areas on the Monterey Peninsula.

**Secretary Salazar Designates Lake Shasta Caverns, Ice Mountain as National Natural Landmarks, May 18**—As part of the 50th anniversary of the National Natural Landmarks Program in May, Secretary Salazar designated Lake Shasta Caverns, a pristine cave in northern California, and Ice Mountain, an unusual geological phenomenon called glacière talus in West Virginia, as national natural landmarks. "With the addition of these two outstanding sites, we now have 593 national natural landmarks, representing the extraordinary geological and ecological diversity of our nation," Salazar said.

**Secretary Salazar Dedicates New High Tech Visitor Center at Boston's Historic Faneuil Hall, May 25**—Secretary Salazar joined Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and other dignitaries to dedicate the new visitor center at Faneuil Hall, the site of events important to American history including the American Revolution and the Abolitionist Movement. The new enhanced center is a product of collaboration between The National Park Service and the city of Boston.

**Secretary Salazar Designates Four Water Trails as Historic Connecting Components of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, May 16**—Secretary Salazar joined Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley in a ceremony at Sandy Point State Park to designate four connecting rivers—the Susquehanna, Chester, Upper Nanticoke, and Upper James Rivers—the history, cultural heritage, and natural resources of the 3,000 mile long national historic trail in the Chesapeake Bay.

**Secretary Salazar Highlights Exemplary River Projects In Every State and District of Columbia, May 21—25**, Secretary Salazar identified projects in every state and the District of Columbia to serve as models of the America's Great Outdoors River Initiative to conserve and restore key rivers across the nation, expand outdoor recreational opportunities and support jobs in local communities. The Initiative was unveiled in January as part of President Obama's overall America's Great Outdoors Initiative to work with communities across the country to establish a 21st century conservation ethic, reconnect people, especially young people, to the outdoors, and promote the outdoor recreation economy.

**Secretary Salazar, White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley Kick-Off Campaign to Hire 12,000 Young People for Summer Work on Public Lands, May 18**—Secretary Salazar and White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley joined members of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and the California Conservation Corps to kick-off summer work opportunities for more than 12,000 young people in national parks, wildlife refuges, and other Interior lands. During the visit, Secretary Salazar visited with youth corps members to discuss their work in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and announced 20 youth conservation corps projects across the country that have been awarded funding through a public-private partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

**Office of Surface Mining Director, Joe Pizarchik, Meets With Virginia and West Virginia Coal Industry Representatives, State and Local Officials to Discuss Administration's All-Of-The-Above Approach to American Energy, Modernization of Regulations, May 22-25**—OSM Director Joe Pizarchik met with representatives of the Virginia and West Virginia coal industry and state officials to discuss the Administration's All-Of-The-Above Approach to American Energy; Modernizing the coal mining regulations via Stream Protection Rulemaking under development; and Cost Recovery for services OSM provides to industry to review and administer mining permits and reduce federal spending.

## DOI URBAN INITIATIVES

### Restoring an Urban Stream—Restoring Neighborhood Greenspace

Last year, this Administration identified the Anacostia River Watershed in Washington, DC, as a high priority under America's Great Outdoors initiative and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.

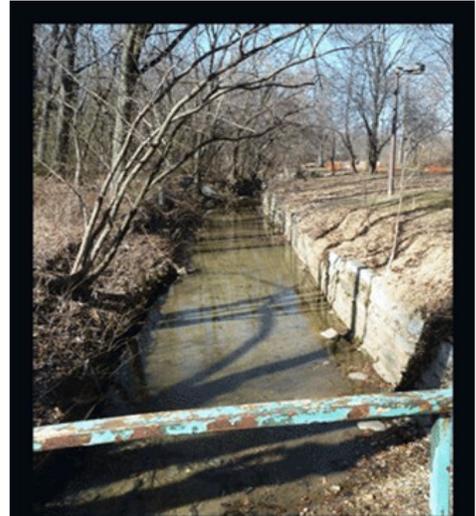
But efforts to address this polluted river began well before these designations. In 2009, Fish and Wildlife Service, the District, EPA, and partners assessed one of the most polluted of the ~13 streams feeding the Anacostia—Watts Branch—confirming degraded conditions typical of so many urban streams.

Flowing through some of the poorest parts of the District, Watts Branch historically had provided important habitat for American eel, alewife, American shad, Atlantic sturgeon and striped bass. Development caused severe erosion and habitat loss transforming it into a conduit for stormwater pollution—the biggest problem facing most urban rivers today.

FWS worked with EPA, the District, and many other partners to restore almost the entire length of the two-mile stream. Partners designed and built in-stream structures to reduce the stress on stream banks and to create in-stream aquatic habitat. Floodplains were recreated to store floodwaters and capture suspended sediments. Soil lifts, matting, and planting vegetation also helped stabilize the streambanks, reduce erosion, and create habitat for riparian dwelling species.

This Spring, partners completed the final plantings for this signature urban stream restoration project, which is already preventing an estimated 1,500 tons of sediment erosion from entering the river.

The Watts Branch project is helping improve the health of the Anacostia, providing better habitat to a host of species, and, most importantly, providing beautiful greenspace for the roughly 150,00 District residents in Wards 7 and 8.



Watts Branch before restoration



Watts Branch during restoration



Watts Branch after restoration

### Bureau Update: Bureau of Land Management

#### BLM, State Officials Engage On Energy Policy, Economic Issues at Western Region InterState Conference

The National Association of Counties (NACo's) Western Interstate Region Conference provided the perfect venue for BLM's State and Local Government Liaison, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, to engage with nearly 400 county commissioners in Santa Fe County, NM.

From May 16th – 18th, the conference hall was electric with discussions ranging from Energy Policy to Economic Concerns in the West to Workforce Needs in a Sustainable Forest Economy. Cynthia also convened a workshop to discuss "How to Develop a Statewide MOU Through Your State Association."

Having the BLM-NM State Director Jesse Juen alongside Chris Carlton, BLM-WY Senior Planner, spar with local elected officials in this interactive forum made for lively conversation and easily implementable strategies coming out of the session. Workshops on Managing Wildland Fire Risks and Meeting the Requirements of ESA rounded out the Block of DOI related topics.

Marcilynn Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management, captivated lunch attendees with a keynote address focused on the priorities of the Department and adeptly fielded questions on a range of issues.

**PHOTO:** Watts Branch Restoration Cycle, credit USFWS



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**Photo (Left to Right)** : Derrick Crandall (American Recreation Coalition), Jarrid Green (OIEA Intern) , John Schoppman (Forever Resorts), and Gail Adams (OIEA Director) at a DC Kids Fishing Day event at Constitution Gardens pond on the National Mall during National Boating and Fishing Week.

### Bureau Snapshot

#### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Fishing Day Event Brings Youth to National Mall

**June 4—** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with other Interior agencies, state- and local government, and non-profit organizations brought students from DC-area schools to the National Mall to learn about fishing techniques, safety, and aquatic conservation in an effort to foster natural resource stewardship in America's youth and provide exposure to careers in natural resources.

## Meet the Staff: Marc Littlejohn, Special Assistant



Marc Littlejohn is a Special Assistant in the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs. His portfolio includes stakeholder engagement, diversity partnerships and constituency groups. He came to this position by way of the National Wildlife Federation where he was manager of strategic partnerships and diversity initiatives. At NWF, Marc was tasked with bringing communities of color into the policy making and advocacy process around clean energy legislation.

Marc is a gifted outreach and recruitment professional who has extensive experience organizing and galvanizing minority populations. He has worked with organizations such as Tennessee State University, Children's National Medical Center and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He hopes to have a long future in public engagement through the lens of diversity and inclusion.

Marc graduated from Tennessee State University (Nashville) in 2002, and has two sons, ages 3 and 4.

*Favorite National Park:*

**Rock Creek Park**

Photos courtesy of Interior Department, credit Tami A. Heilemann; USFWS; Vicki Dixon; Marc Littlejohn